

CLAIMS:

Sub B17
1. A communication device equipped with an automatic operation-keeping system, comprising:

- a main power source (14),
- a processing unit (10) supplied with power by the main power source,
- 5 - means (26, 28, 16) for starting the device at a programmable start time, characterized in that it further includes:
- a clock (24) associated to an auxiliary power source (22), to produce a current time, and
- means (12) for automatically and periodically updating a start time after said
- 10 current time, the electric power supply of the updating means (12) being ensured solely by the main power source.

15 2. A communication device as claimed in claim 1, in which the processing unit (10) comprises the automatic updating means for updating the start time.

3. A communication device as claimed in claim 1, comprising a register (28) for storing start times, updated by automatic updating means to a time D, so that $D = t + N$, where N is a time value higher than or equal to a start interval and where t is the current time.

20 4. A communication device as claimed in claim 1, in which the auxiliary power source comprises an electric capacitance.

Sub A
25 5. A device as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the device is a portable telephone.

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6. A method of keeping a communication device in operation after it has been stopped accidentally, in which:

- when the communication device is in operation, an automatic programmable start time is regularly updated to come after a current time, and in which
- Cont.

when the communication device is stopped by accident, a new start is automatically made the moment when a current time established by a permanent clock coincides with the previously updated start time.

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, in which the start time is updated by adding a time increment to the current time.
8. A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the start time is updated with a shorter interval than a value of the time increment.

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